

## Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department

### Advisory Board

#### 1/27/2022 Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm via ZOOM.
- Members present: Adam Crocker, Koral Loehner, Shekeeta McCrimmon, Fallon Brewington, Adriana Janker, Jose Castellanos, and Eli Schilling.
- Members absent: Josh Wilhelm and Amberly Weber.
- The previous minutes were presented.
- Adam updated the board on the current staffing situation. Both the program and athletic coordinator positions are open. The program position has been open since the end of October, the athletic position since the end of December. Applicants had been hard to find, until the town broadened their search to online services such as Indeed and LinkedIn. Adam and HR completed 14 interviews for the two positions and are working on offers. The first two offers (one for each position) have been turned down due to salary. The next offers are currently out. Fallon asked why former staff left. Adam explained that both took higher paying positions with larger departments closer to where they live.
- Adam updated current park projects. The Main Street and Sharpe Park signs have been installed. Installation of the Main Street Park fence is still waiting on monument work that needs to be done prior to installation. The Colonial Heights parking project is waiting on the update of the parking plan being completed by LKC Engineering. The contractor, Hudson Paving, needs the updated plan to comply with the requirement and standards of the town planning and public works departments. We will hopefully have this plan within the next three weeks so the contractor can begin work in February, before spring sports begin.
- Adam updated winter programming:
  - The Christmas Tree Lighting was held in-person again this year, after being live streamed last year. The last time this event was held in person (2019) there were approximately 200 people in attendance, approximately 225 spread out around the lighting or watched the 2020 lighting. This year, we had approximately 400 people in attendance. Steps will be taken next year to close the road to give more space and Adam feels the upgrades in professional lighting and production have made a huge positive impact on this program.
  - The Christmas Parade was held this year, though with fewer entries. The last time the parade was held (2019) there were 50 entries, while only 35 this year. That includes many entries which were recruited the week of the parade. Several long time entries (Pinecrest ROTC & Band, Shriners) were not in attendance this year. While the parade was well attended the number of entries

was acceptable, Adam feels a large push is needed for more entries next year, beginning in the fall.

- The Old Fashioned Christmas at the Malcolm Blue Farm was held again this year, after a year off. There were approximately 350 visitors in 2019, with approximately 400 this year. This event includes the farm house decorated for Christmas as it would have been in the 1800s, with music being played in the parlor, cookies, and mulled hot apple cider being made and served in the kitchen. The museum is open for touring, while the pack house has kids crafts such as pinecone birdfeeders, a countdown clock to Christmas, and letters to Santa using parchment paper and quill and ink.
- For the second year in a row, the department offered a Letters to Santa program. Children could drop their letters to Santa in a mailbox at the Recreation Center. Santa then personally responded to each letter. Last year was the first year we offered this program, in a response to lost programming due to COVID, and 69 letters were received. This year we had similar success with 63 letters received.
- The Youth Basketball League is running with 260 participants. There were 233 registered last year when we had to cancel the program due to COVID. The year before there were 304 entries. Adam mentioned that this is the one program which has been hurt most by COVID. While Pinehurst and Southern Pines were able to offer basketball last year, while requiring masks, Aberdeen could not due to the use of a school facility. This year, while Pinehurst and Southern Pines were not requiring masks, Aberdeen required them due to use of the school facility. This has certainly resulted in the loss of participants. However, Adam still feels 260 is a good number and should easily rebound to previous totals if playing conditions can return to relative normal.
- The Youth Cheerleading program is running as well, this year with 46 girls cheering. This number was 24 the last time we held this program in 2019. The growth in this program, which cheers for the Boys 9-12 league, has been strong.
- Adam mentioned that he is still working on getting the advisory board a tour of the old Aberdeen Elementary School gymnasium and auditorium, which will most likely be in the spring. Eli reiterated his interest in this tour.
- Adriana asked about the possible uses of the old field and tennis courts behind the old Aberdeen Elementary School, now that the town owns the property. Adam updated the board on the town's intention with that part of the property. While the Parks and Recreation Department can certainly envision positive uses for that section of the property, the town intends to sell that portion to a developer, as it is the only section of property that sets up well for residential development. Adriana expressed her displeasure with that stance.

- Adam mentioned that meetings will continue via ZOOM, as opposed to in person, though he will put it on the agenda for next meeting to discuss an in person meeting perhaps in the summer.
- The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2022 via ZOOM.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 pm.